Telexfax Memorandum to:

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We learned late on June 12 that ASH has issued a Freedom of Information Act request to EPA for the Agency's Technical Compendium regarding ETS. The Compendium apparently will be released to ASH Thursday with a cover memo noting that the Compendium should NOT be considered an EPA document.

I think it is not unreasonable to assume that ASH will hold a press conference announcing the release of the documents, claiming: (1) it was necessary to force EPA to release the documents; (2) EPA was withholding the Compendium because of pressue by the tobacco industry; (3) the Compendium concludes that more than 50,000 non-smokers in the U.S. die each year because of their exposure to ETS: (4) ETS causes tens of thousands of heart disease deaths in non-smokers each year; (5) EPA, OSHA, and Congress must act immediately.

If there are media inquiries, they should be referred to the Tobacco Institute.

Keep in mind that:

1. The Compendium is not an EPA document and the EPA says so.

2. Robert Axelrod of EPA has said the heart disease claims in the document "may be of a figment of Stanton Glanty's imagination.

3. No one has tried to suppress this document. We do believe, however, that before it is released, it should be subjected to independent scientific review.

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